

### REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are pending. Applicants elect Group II (claims 17-27 and 32-35) for examination on the merits. Claim amendments are supported by the original disclosure and do not add new matter. They correct informalities and do not affect the scope of the claims. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the nonelected subject matter in a further patent application. Further, under the Notice dated March 26, 1996 (1184 OG 86), Applicants request rejoinder of nonelected method claims upon an indication that an elected product claim is allowable.

Form PTO-1449 listing documents for the Examiner's consideration is attached. No fee is due because this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted prior to a first Office Action on the merits. As provided by 37 CFR §§ 1.97(g) and (h), no representation is being made that a search has been conducted or that this statement encompasses all possible material information. Furthermore, no inference should be made that the cited documents are prior art merely because they have been submitted for consideration. Consideration of the listed documents and the Examiner's return of a copy of the Form PTO-1449 with his initials per M.P.E.P. § 609, are earnestly solicited.

Applicants earnestly solicit an early and favorable examination on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By:                     /Gary R. Tanigawa/                      
Gary R. Tanigawa  
Reg. No. 43,180

901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22203-1808  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100